

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for controlling data transmission in a network system configured by a plurality of nodes including  
5 a first node, a second node, and a third node, wherein the first node has a plurality of ports including a first port connected to the second node and a second port connected to the third node, and the first node enables data received by the first port from the second node to be transmitted from the second port to the third node, and wherein each node has address information, the received data including the address information of the node to which the received data is addressed, the method comprising the steps of:

comparing the address information of the first node with the address information included in the received data;

temporarily disconnecting the third node from the first node when the received data is not addressed to the third node.

20 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the temporarily disconnecting includes dividing the network system into a plurality of sub-network systems, and wherein the method further comprises permitting data transmission within each of the sub-network systems.

25 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the disconnecting step includes idling the second port.

30 4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
monitoring data transmission at each port; and  
idling all of the ports when data transmission is completed at all of the ports.

5. A data transmission controller comprising:  
a plurality of ports including a first port connected  
to a first node and a second port connected to a second  
node;  
a network information memory for storing node  
information of the first and second nodes;  
a packet determiner connected to the first and second  
ports and the network information memory for determining  
with the node information an addressee of data received by  
the first port from the first node; and  
an interface control circuit connected to the packet  
determiner to temporarily disconnect the second node from  
the second port when the data is not addressed to the second  
node.

6. The data transmission controller according to  
claim 5, wherein the interface control circuit permits data  
transmission within a sub-network system including the  
second node.

7. The data transmission controller according to  
claim 5, further comprising a plurality of interfaces  
respectively connected between the ports and the interface  
control circuit, wherein the interface control circuit  
controls the interface associated with the second port to  
idle the second port and temporarily terminates the  
connection between the second port and the second node.

8. The data transmission controller according to  
claim 5, wherein the interface control circuit monitors data  
transmission at the ports and idles all of the ports after  
data transmission is completed at all of the ports.

9. The data transmission controller according to  
claim 5, wherein the data transmission controller is one of  
a plurality of data transmission controllers provided in  
each of a plurality of nodes configuring a network system,  
each of the nodes transmitting to other nodes a packet  
including a physical node number when the network system  
undergoes a bus reset, and wherein the network information  
memory stores the physical node number of each node as the  
node information.

10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95  
10. A data transmission controller incorporated in a  
first node for enabling data received by a first port from a  
second node to be transmitted by a second port to a third  
node, wherein the data includes packet information  
containing a data origination address and a data destination  
address, the data transmission controller comprising:

a first interface connected to the first port;  
a second interface connected to the second port;  
a network information memory for storing first address  
information of the first node, second address information of  
the second node, and third address information of the third  
node;

a packet determiner connected to the first and second  
interfaces for comparing the data destination address with  
the second and third address information to determine an  
addressee of the received data; and

30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95  
an interface control circuit connected to the first and  
second interfaces, the packet determiner, and the network  
information memory for controlling the first and second  
interfaces, wherein the interface control circuit processes  
the data when the data is addressed to the first node,  
transmits the data to the third node from the second port

when the data is addressed to the third node, and controls  
the second interface when the data is not addressed to the  
third node to idle the second port and disconnect the second  
port from the third node to stop data transmission by the  
second port to the third node.

11. The data transmission controller according to  
claim 10, wherein the interface control circuit permits data  
transmission within a first sub-network system including the  
third node.

12. The data transmission controller according to  
claim 10, wherein the first node and the second node  
configure a second network system, and wherein the interface  
control circuit permits independent data transmission in  
each of the first and second sub-network systems when the  
second port is idle.

13. The data transmission controller according to  
claim 12, wherein the interface control circuit idles the  
first and second ports when data transmission in the first  
and second sub-network systems is completed.

14. A method for controlling data transmission in a  
network system configured by a plurality of nodes including  
a first node, a second node, and a third node, wherein the  
first node has a plurality of ports including a first port  
connected to the second node and a second port connected to  
the third node, and the first node enables data received by  
the first port from the second node to be transmitted by the  
second port to the third node, and wherein each node has  
address information, the received data including the address  
information of the node to which the received data is

addressed, the method comprising:

comparing the address information of the first node  
with the address information included in the received data;

temporarily disconnecting the third node from the  
second port when the received data is not addressed to the  
third node to divide the network system into a first sub-  
network system including the third node and a second sub-  
network system including the first and second nodes; and  
permitting data transmission within the first sub-  
network system.

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